BEN DUNN/96
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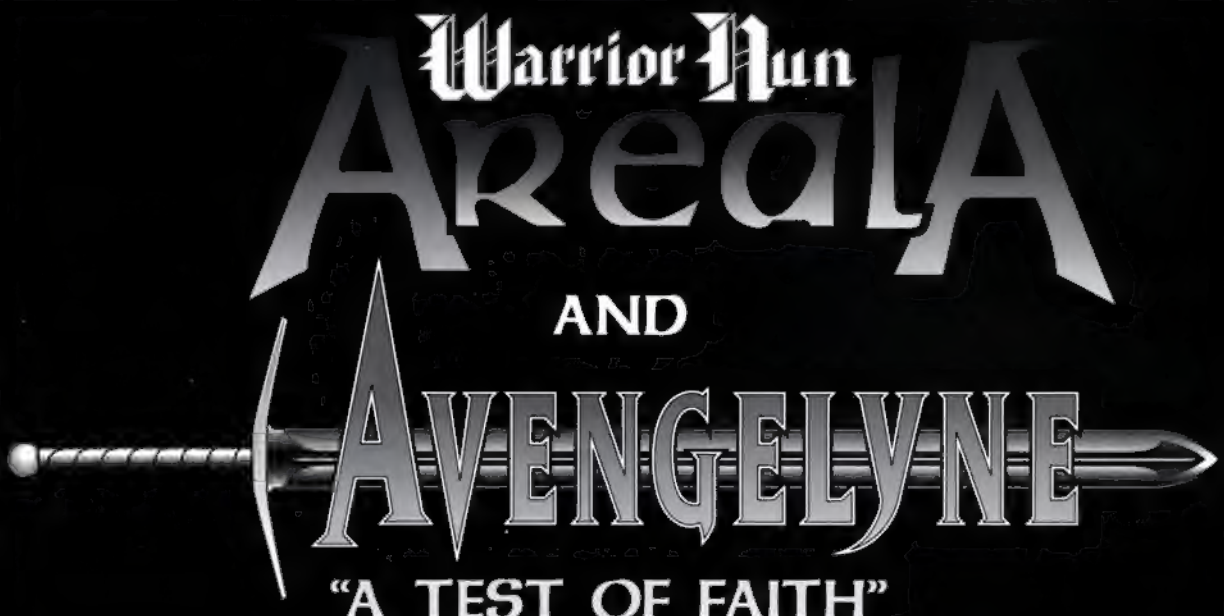

"A TEST OF FAITH"

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"NEW YORK CITY."
"THIS IS MY TERRITORY. I PROTECT IT AND ITS CITIZENS FROM THE FORCES OF HELL."
"FOR I AM Warrior Nun AreaLA"
GOD HAS CHOSEN US TO BE THE FIRST LINE OF SOLDIERS IN THE WAR BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL...
WE, THE BROTHER-HOOD OF CLERICS!
WHERE THERE IS EVIL... WE ARE READY!
WUP!
WUP!
WUP!
PASTOR GRUMMAN! SOMETHING APPROACHES!
HMMM... A CATHOLIC TRANSPORT...
"WARRIOR NUNS! ARE THEY HERE TO HELP US?"
"NOT REALLY."

SISTER SARAH! SISTER AREALA! AVOID ANY TYPE OF CONFRONTATION UNTIL BACKUP HAS ARRIVED!
WE ACKNOWLEDGE, CARDINAL SHOC...
SISTER SARAH AND AREALA, OUT!
WE WARN YOU NOT TO INTERFERE, CATHOLICS!
OUR PRESENCE HERE IS NOT AS IT SEEMS!
OH?
THEN WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME...
WHY A BUNCH OF PROTESTANT CLERICS HAVE A CATHOLIC CHURCH SURROUNDED?
OUR SATELLITE MONITORING SYSTEM DETECTED YOUR GATHERING HERE!
LOOKS LIKE A SHOWDOWN TO ME!
HOW WRONG YOU ARE, NUN! THIS IS MUCH MORE THAN MERE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN OUR CHURCHES...
THIS IS ABOUT THE HOSTS OF SATAN RISING TO WAGE WAR ON HEAVEN ITSELF!
THIS IS ABOUT ARMAGEDDON!
BEHOLD! IT HAS BEGUN!
SISTER AREALA! OVER THE CHURCH!
SOME SORT OF DEMONIC GATE! THE LARGEST I'VE EVER SEEN!
DO NOT FEAR, SISTER SARAH! AS LONG AS WE HAVE FAITH...
...WE SHALL OVERCOME ANY EVIL!
STILL... A LITTLE BACKUP WOULDN'T HURT...

SISTER AREALA TO CARDINAL SHOC... WE'RE GOING IN!
"I CANNOT EXPLAIN THE REASON HOW AND WHY A DEMON GATE HAS APPEARED ABOVE THE HOUSE OF THE LORD...
...BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE!"
MEANWHILE, INSIDE ST. AUGUSTINE'S, FATHER PETER CLIFTON GOES ABOUT THE LORD'S BUSINESS...
WHA'?
...UNAWARE OF THE EVIL LURKING...
GOOD LORD!!
LORD? YES! GOOD? I DON'T THINK SO!
IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY, FATHER CLIFTON, I'D LIKE TO USE YOU AS A BLOOD SACRIFICE... HMMM?
!!

HE'SSSS MINE!!
DEMONS! HOW DARE YOU!!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INTRUSION, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACCEPT A COLLECT CALL!
ALLOW TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... CALL ME
KURRUPT
OF COURSE THAT'S NOT MY REAL NAME, BUT I SORT OF LIKE IT...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DEMONS! MINIONS OF HELL!
I WILL NEVER HELP YOU OR YOUR CAUSE!
AHHH...NOW YOU'VE HURT MY FEELINGS, FATHER...
...HERE I THOUGHT WE COULD PLAY A NICE GAME OF 'MAGIC, THE GATHERING'...
I HAD A WICKED DECK, TOO...

SWISH!!!
HOW DARE YOU!!
OUCH!
SMASH!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT...
SMASH!
MY LINK TO SATAN'S POWER MAKES ME INVINCIBLE!
HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY FATHER'S HOUSE!
COMING FROM A FALLEN ANGEL SUCH AS YOURSELF, AVENGELYNE, I AM SUPRISED YOU STILL HAVE A FATHER!
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME? I COULD USE ANOTHER CONCUBINE!

WE ARE NOT SOME RABBLE OF A MOTH-EATEN LITTLE DEMON LORD...
WE ARE THE FELL LEGIONS OF SATAN HIMSELF!
I WILL NOT YIELD, DEMON!
THEN YOU WILL DIE!
SO BE IT!
??!!
WHOOM!

STANDARD FORMATION, SISTER SARAH!
RIGHT, SISTER AREALA!
"LOOK OVER THERE, SISTER SARAH! A FIGHTER AGAINST A HORDE OF DEMONS! SHOULD WE HELP?"
"ANY ENEMY OF HELL IS AN ALLY. LET US PROCEED TO SHOW THESE CREATURES THE FOLLY OF ENTERING THE LORD'S HOUSE."
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR, THE Warrior Nuns ARE HERE!
YOU BITCHES!! IT IS TIME THAT YOU LEARN ABOUT HELL'S FURY!

SHRACK!
EVERYONE! BEHIND MY HOLY SHIELD!
FEEL THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE!
HEH HEH. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!
ULRGGH! SUCH POWER! DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN...
WHAT THE FU--!!
WHOOM!
GOD HAS MANY SOLDIERS, DEMON! HELL SHALL NOT WIN THIS DAY!
WELL, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME AND MY SACRIFICE TO LEAVE THIS PARTY... TAH! TAH!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME, DEMON LORD!
KURRUPT HAS TAKEN PETER THROUGH HIS PORTAL!
I MUST FOLLOW!
THE CLERIC IS FOLLOWING KURRUPT INTO THE PORTAL!
I CANNOT ALLOW ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO PETER!
HURRY! BEFORE THE GATE CLOSES!
AWAY, CHRISTIÁN!
UGH!
SISTER SARAH!
TOO LATE! THE GATE IS CLOSING!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW-W-W-!

"I AM SORRY, SISTER SARAH!"
"WHY?"
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, CATHOLIC!
AND WHY DID YOU BRING HER?
UH.. WHERE ARE WE?
I AM ASKING THE QUESTIONS, WARRIOR NUN!
CLERIC, I AM NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THAT TONE OF VOICE!
WE ARE ALL SOLDIERS OF THE SAME GOD!
NOT HER!
SHE IS OF THE FALLEN!
GOD HAS CAST HER OUT OF HEAVEN!
IT IS TRUE.
I AM AN ANGEL BANISHED FROM HEAVEN BECAUSE OF MY SINS
I AM
AVENGELYNE
MY FATHER.. HAS TURNED ME AWAY, BUT I WILL NEVER TURN AWAY FROM HIM!
I FIGHT FOR HIM AND HIS LOVE!

ST. AUGUSTINE'S, THAT CHURCH, WAS MY HOME UNTIL THAT ARCH-DEMON, KURRUPT, TRANSFORMED IT INTO HELL'S GATE!
HE MUST PAY!!
I AGREE THAT THIS DEMON MUST PAY FOR DEFILING A HOUSE OF THE LORD...
...BUT I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD EVER HAVE BEEN AN ANGEL!
I AM WHO I SAY I AM!
WHO ARE YOU, NUN?
I AM A WARRIOR NUN! YOU MAY CALL ME AREALA!
A SOLDIER OF GOD!
AH, YES. I'VE READ YOUR FILE. YOUR REAL NAME IS SISTER SHANNON!
YOU ARE THE ONE THAT CLAIMS TO BE THE LATEST INCARNATION OF THE AVATAR, AREALA!
IT IS NO BOAST, CLERIC! YOU ARE BEGINNING TO ANNOY ME!
IT IS A GIFT...
HOWEVER, YOU ARE CORRECT IN THE FACT THAT YOU AND I ARE STILL SOLDIERS OF THE SAME GOD!
YOU BOTH FIGHT WELL. IT IS TO MY ADVANTAGE THAT YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND IN THE LORD'S SERVICE!
KURRUPT HAS BEEN SENT BY HIS MASTER, SATAN, TO BEGIN ARMAGEDDON!
HIS GOAL IS TO SIT ON THE THRONE OF HEAVEN ITSELF!

HOW? BY INVADING ST.AUGUSTINE'S?
NO.
SATAN HAS GIVEN MUCH OF HIS POWER TO HIS LEGIONS, THUS MAKING THEM INVINCIBLE!
THAT IS WHY IT SO DIFFICULT TO BATTLE THEM IN THE CHURCH!
OH, NO! HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
SISTER SARAH! COME IN!
PUT DOWN THAT COMMUNICATOR, AREALA.
IT WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD HERE!
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT STILL CONFUSES ME, CLERIC!
ARE WE THAT FAR OUT OF RANGE?
HUMPH. FURTHER THAN YOU THINK!
SATAN COULD NOT GIVE UP SO MUCH POWER TO SO MANY WITHOUT A WAY TO QUICKLY REPLENISH IT!
HOW WILL HE DO THAT?
A SACRIFICE!
WITH THE PROPER SACRIFICE MADE TO HIM, HE COULD EASILY RESTORE HIS POWER!
I FEAR THAT GIVEN ENOUGH POWER A NEW WAR WOULD BE WAGED AND SATAN HIMSELF MIGHT BE THE VICTOR!
WE MUST STOP THIS UNHOLY OFFERING!
IT IS THE ONLY WAY SATAN WILL RETREAT!
BUT WHERE ARE WE, CLERIC?
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, 1609! CATHOLIC...
NOW, COME! KURRUPT HAS NOT BEGUN HIS PREPARATION FOR THE SACRIFICE!
I WOULD KNOW IF HE HAD!
WE HAVE TIME... BUT NOT MUCH!

KURRUPT HAS TAKEN HIS VICTIM TO THE CHURCH IN THE CENTER OF TOWN
MOVE SILENTLY! I DO NOT WISH TO BE SPOTTED BY THE EASILY CONFUSED PEOPLE OF SALEM!
PEOPLE REMAIN THE SAME NO MATTER THE TIME, CLERIC...
THEY MAY EVEN MISTAKE A NUN FOR A WI--
LOOK OVER THERE!
BURN!
BURN!
BURN!
BURN!
BURN!
BURN!
PODDA!
PLEASE! PLEASE HELP ME, PODDA!
ENOUGH!!

AVENGELYNE!
COME BACK HERE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?!
YOU HUMANS ARE TOO MUCH!!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I AM GOING TO HELP HER!
"SIGH" WHY NOT?
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE WITH THIS 'WITCH BURNING' ANYWAY...
I GIVE YOU ONE WARNING, PEOPLE OF SALEM!
HOLY ROSARY ATTACK!
GO HOME, NOW!!
WHOOM!
ANOTHER WITCH!!
BRING MORE TORCHES!
DO NOT FEAR LITTLE ONE...I WILL SAVE YOU!

#%@EW YOUR SALVATION, BITCH!
ZRAK!!!
HAHA! WHAT FOOLS YOU CHRISTIANS BE!
CRYPT WAS RIGHT! YOU FELL RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!
HE KNEW YOU WOULD TRY TO DISRUPT HIS OFFERING!
THE WHOLE TOWN HAS BEEN CORRUPTED!
HOW COULD I NOT HAVE FORSEEN THIS?
GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING, CLERIC!
WE MUST STOP THEM!
WHA'?
MY SWORD! IT... GAH!
AWAY, MORTAL!

TASTE GOD'S JUSTICE, HELL-SPAWN!
'TIS BUT A SCRATCH! I'VE HAD WORSE!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? *YAWN*
I...I... DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SOME CLERIC YOU ARE.
THEY ARE TOO STRONG!
ALL OF YOU! GET BEHIND ME!
HAHAHAHA! NOW THE POWER OF DARKNESS SHALL OVERCOME THE LIGHT! PREPARE FOR THY DOOM, CHRISTIANS!
FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN! HEAR MY PRAYER!
BLIND THY ENEMIES IN THY HOLY LIGHT!
AUGH! COVER YOUR EYES!!

THEY SEEK PROTECTION IN THE CHURCH! WHAT FOLLY! AFTER THEM!
A FINE DIVERSION, AREALA!
IT IS GOD'S WILL AVENGELYNE!
IT WAS ADEQUATE, CATHOLIC..
BUT NOW THE ONLY WAY TO STOP SATAN...
...IS TO STOP KURRUPT FROM MAKING THAT SACRIFICE!
I SENSE NO ONE HERE...
...IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF TRICK, CLERIC..
THE CHURCH IS EMPTY!
I NEED NOT ANSWER TO YOU, NUN...KURRUPT MUST BE HERE UNLESS..
OF COURSE! HE MUST HAVE GATED THROUGH ANOTHER TIME PORTAL! WE MUST FOLLOW!
HOW LONG DOES KURRUPT INTEND TO RUN? WHY DOES HE NOT FACE US?
WHATEVER HIS REASON, IT IS IN THE NAME OF HELL...
REASON ENOUGH TO CONTINUE!
I'VE OPENED THE TIME PORTAL THAT KURRUPT USED TO ESCAPE!
HURRY! I CAN ONLY KEEP IT OPEN A FEW SECONDS!
UHHH... AFTER YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU ANGELS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FEARLESS!
WE ARE... BUT WE'RE NOT STUPID EITHER...
WHERE ARE THOSE IDIOTIC, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS?
OH.. IT SEEMS THAT THEY'VE DECIDED TO FOLLOW KURRUPT THROUGH THE TIME GATE..
EXCELLENT!

WHAT PLACE OF DEATH HAVE YOU BROUGHT US TO, CLERIC?
OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.. 1490, NUN!
SUCH DESTRUCTION IN THE LORD'S NAME..
THE CRUSADES A PERFECT PLACE FOR SACRIFICE, FOR BLOOD IS ABUNDANT!
THE EVIL KURRUPT WEAVES COULD EASILY PEVERT THIS HOLY LAND.
LAND THAT BRAVE SOULS GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR, WILLINGLY, IN GOD'S NAME!
WELL, THEN, CLERIC... WHERE IS KURRUPT?
HERE I AM, FOOLS!
NOW, I WOULD HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU ALL SINCE YOU WENT THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO FIND ME!
I HAVE NO DEMONS TO PROTECT ME. I HAVE AM NO ILLUSION...
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
WELL, WELL.. SO YOU'VE FOLLOWED ME THIS FAR, EH?
STRIKE ME DOWN! KILL ME!

IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO END YOUR REIGN, DEMON LORD!
BEFORE WE DISPATCH YOU BACK TO HELL, WHERE IS PASTOR PETER CLIFTON?
CAN'T YOUR 'DIVINE KNOWLEDGE' REVEAL THAT TO YOU, CLERIC?
TRICKSTER! TELL US NOW! OR YOUR FATE WILL BE MOST UNPLEASANT!
MAKE ME, YOU BIG CHICKENS!
FOUL BEAST!
HAHAHA! IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? IS THIS THE BEST THAT GOD CAN SEND?
SMACKKK!!
GOOD SHALL ALWAYS TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!!
OH, PLEASE...

ZAK!
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN THAT CRAP?
BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE INTO CLICHES, CLERIC, HERE'S ONE...
MIGHT MAKES RIGHT!
BOY, YOU GUYS WERE PATHETIC...
I HAVE OLD CHEESE STRONGER THAN YOU!
WELL, I GAVE YOU GUYS A CHANCE...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY ANYMORE...
I'VE GOT TO MAKE A SACRIFICE... YOU KNOW HOW EASILY THEY SPOIL!
...SATAN JUST HATES TO BE KEPT WAITING!

CURSED DEMON!! HE'S ESCAPED MY JUSTICE AGAIN!!
THEN WE WILL FOLLOW HIM. NO MATTER WHERE HE HAS GONE!
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, KURRUPT WILL NOT ESCAPE GOD'S WRATH!!
THEN WHAT, CLERIC?
KURRUPT HAS BEATEN US AT EVERY TURN! HIS STRENGTH IS MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE!
DON'T DARE LOSE YOUR FAITH, AREALA!
AS LONG AS GOD IS ON OUR SIDE, WE SHALL PREVAIL!!
DO NOT [illegible] TO TEST MY FAITH, AVENGELYNE!
MY SISTERS AND I ARE NOT IMMORTAL ANGELS SUCH AS YOURSELF! WE ARE HUMAN! WE HAVE MOMENTS OF WEAKNESS AND PASSION!
IF YOU ANGELS HAD DONE YOUR JOB THEN MANKIND MIGHT NOT BE FIGHTING SUCH [illegible]!
I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO DEFEAT KURRUPT AND HIS PLANS...PERHAPS DIE TRYING...BUT FORGIVE ME IF I WISH TO LIVE FOR TOMORROW!

"CLERIC. ."
"WHERE HAVE YOU BROUGHT US THIS TIME?"
THE LAND... IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL...
THIS IS EDEN, AREALA
EDEN? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? COULD MY POWER HAVE FAILED ME?
OH, HOW TOUCHING... I LOVE IT WHEN THERE IS A CRISIS OF FAITH!
YOU HAVE DONE EXACTLY AS I KNEW YOU WOULD! NOW YOU ALL ARE TRAPPED IN A TIME AND PLACE WHERE GOD CANNOT HELP YOU!
PETER!
I'M ALL RIGHT, AVENGELYNE!
ISN'T THAT NICE? STILL LUST AFTER YOUR HUMAN PRIEST, EH, ANGEL? TOO BAD FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS THAT TODAY IS THE SEVENTH DAY!
NOW I SHALL RELEASE YOUR HUMAN PRIEST, SINCE, AFTER ALL, YOU THREE ARE THE REAL SACRIFICES!
I MUST ADMIT THAT LEADING YOU HERE WAS NOT AS EASY IN TERMS OF POWER DRAIN...
...THEN JERUSALEM!
THAT IS WHY WE HAD TO JUMP TO SALEM..

VERY ASTUTE. REGARDLESS, A LONE PRIEST WOULD NOT BE VERY SATISFYING TO MY LORD SATAN...
...BUT AN ANGEL, A WARRIOR NUN AND A CLERIC! NOW THAT WOULD BE A MEAL WORTHY OF HIM! YOUR SOULS WOULD GIVE HIM THE POWER TO DEFEAT GOD AT HIS WEAKEST MOMENT IN TIME!
ALL OF THE PROPER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET. OUR PRAYERS TO SATAN ARE PERFORMED, AND MOST IMPORTANT, YOU ALL HAVE COME SO WILLINGLY TO THE SACRIFICE POST!
THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, PETER...
FORGET ME! YOU MUST STOP HIM!
YOU FORGET ONE THING, KURRUPT...
...WE MAY HAVE COME WILLINGLY... BUT WE WILL NOT DIE WILLINGLY!
"ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS!"
HOW TEDIOUS...
DEMONS! ATTACK!!

WHY IS KURRUPT JUST STANDING THERE? UNLESS..

THESE DEMONS DON'T SEEM AS TOUGH AS BEFORE..
I HAVE A THEORY.
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
AREALA! CLERIC! KURRUPT'S POWER IS ALSO LOW! WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!!
SO YOU HAVE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT, EH?
OH WELL, IT WILL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD!
I WAS HOPING THAT MY DEMONS WOULD EVENTUALLY WEAR YOU THREE DOWN, BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
INDIVIDUALLY, MY DEMONS MAY NOT MATCH YOU IN POWER..
...BUT I CAN ABSORB THEIR LIFEFORCE AND ADD IT TO MY OWN!
THUS MAKING ME INVINCIBLE!
YYAAAHHHHH!!!

NOW YOU SHALL DIE FOR MY LORD SATAN!!
AND EARTH SHALL BELONG TO HIM!!
UH... WHAT NOW?
KURRUPT IS STILL TRANSFORMING! HE IS NOW AT HIS WEAKEST! WE HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE!
WE MUST ALL STRIKE TOGETHER!

NOW!!
YARGH!
PING!
PING!
OH, SHIT!
WHOOM!

WELCOME BACK, SISTER!
OF COURSE! THE DEMONS DISAPPEARED AFTER YOU WENT INTO THE GATE..
ACCORDING TO THE CLERIC, ONCE KURRUPT WAS DESTROYED, YOU WERE ALL TELEPORTED BACK TO NEW YORK!
EASY NOW, AVENGELYNE...
SISTER SARAH! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CLERIC?
MY TASK IS DONE, CATHOLIC...THE FORCES OF DARKNESS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED AND MY SOLDIERS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH STILL AWAIT MY RETURN!
I BID BOTH YOU AND AVENGELYNE FAREWELL!
HE FINALLY CALLED ME 'AREALA'...
HE IS A GOOD MAN, THOUGH A BIT CRUDE...
HUMANS ARE FLAWED CREATURES, AVENGELYNE...GOD DID NOT WANT US ALL TO BE COPIES, I AM SURE...
I HAVE SEEN FALLEN ANGELS TURN AGAINST THE LORD...I HAVE SEEN ANGELS JOIN THE FORCES OF HELL...
...BUT NOT YOU!
YOU TRULY ARE WORTHY OF THE NAME OF AREALA!
KEEP WELL THY NAME AND GOD BE WITH YOU!
GOD BE WITH YOU AS WELL!

I WAS WRONG TO LOSE MY TEMPER. YOU SHOWED BOTH COURAGE AND FAITH THAT COULD ONLY COME FROM AN ANGEL OF OUR FATHER!
FORGIVE ME!
YOUR WORDS FILL ME WITH GREAT INNER LIGHT AND I HOPE THAT THIS IS BUT ONE OF MANY STEPS BACK INTO MY LORD'S GRACE...THAT IT WILL LEAD ME BACK INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...
MY HOME!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, AVENGELYNE, KEEP YOUR FAITH STRONG!
AMEN!
Fin.

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AND

AVENGELYNE

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